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For Judge of Court of Appeals,
R. K. WILLIAMS,
of GRANT COUNTY.

District composed of Allen, Butler, Breckinridge, Clay, Floyd, Gallatin, Greenup, Grant, Hancock, Harlan, Hickman, Johnson, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Muhlenberg, Obion, Owsley, Perry, Rockcastle, Rowan, Scott, Simpson, Taylor, Union, Warren, Adair, Casey, and Webster.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1862.

The President, as appears from his proclamation of the 19th inst., officially repudiated the General Order Hunter without so much as stopping to ascertain whether it was authentic or not. This prompted, measuring as it does the President's strong sense of the illegitimacy of the Order and of the evils it was adapted to inflict upon the cause of the country, a source of satisfaction and confidence to the loyal public. It is exactly what the action of the President in previous exigencies of this description authorized us to expect in the present one. It is worthy of his former pledges and of his former conduct in this relation. Sincere patriots everywhere will hail it with unqualified approbation.

The President, indeed, reserves to himself the liberty of determining at any future time whether he as Commander-in-Chief has the power to do what his subordinate has just sought to do, and, if he has the power, whether the necessity for the exercise of the power exists in any case; but whilst we regret this reservation as ill-judged and impolitic we cannot believe that it signifies practically anything whatever. The President, in reality, so far from believing that the necessity for the exercise of this power will ever arise, believes that the necessity for abstaining from the exercise of the power, if he possessed it, is and must ever be imperative and vital.

Such is the conviction that lies at the bottom of his avowed policy in respect to slaves in the States. His avowed policy necessarily prepossesses this conviction. So does his actual conduct. Nor are we left alone to necessary inference on this head. "It is," said Colonel Blair, of Missouri, declaring authoritatively in Congress a few weeks ago the rationale of the President's policy, and vindicating it against the assaults of the friends of the policy now espoused by Gen. Hunter, "the rebellion was made by two hundred and fifty thousand slave-holders, for the sake of perpetuating slavery, then it might be a complete remedy to extirpate the institution; but if the rebellion has grown out of the abhorrence of the non-slave-holders for emancipation and amalgamation, and their dread of 'negro equality,' how will their discontent be cured by the very measure of the more apprehension of which has driven them into rebellion? No wise man desires to increase the number of enemies to the state within the hostile regions, or divide its friends outside. Mr. Lincoln knew that a degree of emancipation simply would certainly have this effect. Such an act he knew was calculated to make rebels of the whole of the non-slave-holders of the South, and at the same time to weaken the sympathy of a large number of the working-men of the North, who are not ready to see their brethren in the South put on an equality with emancipated negroes." Here is the undisputed ground of the President's policy, and this ground obviously excludes the necessity of proclaiming emancipation in any contingency; nay, it makes emancipation, considered as the dictate of military necessity, a fixed and lasting absurdity. And as such we have no doubt the President actually regards the measure.

We confess we are sorry the President did not see fit to say this in direct terms, and thus break openly with his fierce abolition supporters, in lieu of appealing them by the vague and meaningless reservation in question. We, in truth, do not believe the President could kick these zealous from his support, if he kicked them over so righteously, for if they stood apart they would at once reveal their numerical insignificance, and become relatively powerless. They well know that isolation would be the death of them. The President couldn't scourge them away from him. But, if he couldn't, the mere fall of the lash upon their backs would be worth treasure and blood to our cause; and, if he could, so much the better for the country and for him. The support of such fanatics, instead of strengthening the Government, weakens it, and strengthens the rebellion. The President, therefore, in cherishing a desire to keep in with them, and in making even empty concessions by way of satisfying this desire, acts with a singular lack of sagacity and prudence, though not, we are sure, without the most patriotic motives. His fault in the case, grave as we deem it is, is we are persuaded, a fault of judgment not of purpose. Moreover, it is a fault which every day is serving to disclose to him, and which, accordingly, he must er long see in its true light. When he does, we are confident that he will correct it, and correct it, too, with a decision and completeness that will go far to do away with the evil effects it will have wrought.

Meanwhile, we can assure the loyal men of the slaveholding States, what we ourselves believe, that the reservation in the President's proclamation signifies thus much and nothing more. It is simply another tub thrown out to the radical whale, which, if the President did but realize the truth, is no whale after all. Unquestionably the reservation has no practical significance whatever.

The Nashville Union says that a soldier was shot dead two or three days ago near the Water Works in that city by a cowardly assassin. We look for the immediate arrest of some leading secessionists of Nashville by order of Gen. Johnson. We cannot say that we would have them shot or hung, but it would be well to keep them for a time, and probably for a long time, upon bread and water.

The Chinese, after a long period of wet weather, when they have prayed vainly for relief, put their gods out in the rain to see how they like it. For a similar reason, the rebels would do well to cut off the market-supplies of their public functionaries for a few days.

The money article of the Richmond Examiner quotes gold at 100 per cent premium. Why doesn't it acknowledge the simple truth that Confederate paper is from 80 to 100 per cent discount?

Our rebels, who swear there is no Constitution, tell us, the moment they think themselves in danger, to respect that sacred instrument of the Constitution.

A correspondent asks whether the men of the South "are to be compelled to submit to the laws of the Union." Not if they will submit without compulsion.

When our troops arrived at Norfolk, they found bacon selling at 50 cents a pound and candles at 60—dog-cheap, considering the value of the paper given in payment.

The rebels are turning their attention now less to the production of cotton than to pork. King Cotton is dethroned by King Hog.

The rebellion doesn't make good times, but the rebels certainly "make good time."

EMANCIPATION BY PROCLAMATION.—In 1842, Mr. Adams suffered himself to be thrown into a mental excitement, approaching hallucination, by his confidants in the House of Representatives with the fire-eaters. By way of resort, retaliation, or annoyance to them, he permitted himself to affirm that, during a war of rebellion or invasion, our own or foreign military commanders would have the right power by proclamation to emancipate all slaves. To prove this he relied solely on the law of nations.

He was answered through the column is of the Journal, and the answer having attracted much attention, he promised a reply from his seat in Congress. The reply never having been made, the presumption is that in a moment of extreme exasperation he had uttered what he really did not believe, or that, after becoming cool, he abandoned the attempt, finding it impossible to maintain his position with anything like plausibility. That refutation of Mr. Adams's dogma has to this day remained wholly unanswered. We were pleased to see that in the Senate of the United States a defiant challenge was recently thrown out to Senator Sumner to undertake the task.

Yet the fanatics are assuming this dogma to be true, and making it the basis or justification of most important action by Congress, by the President, and our Generals. The pretension in behalf of the latter is effectually silenced by the proclamation of Mr. Lincoln. We regret however to see that, whilst doing this, he reserves it as a debatable question, not yet decided, whether he himself may not by his proclamation emancipate the slaves. His act pronouncing the proclamation of General Hunter void and of none effect must forever stop him from acting upon or in any way attempting to carry out the dogma.

Those who have more recently attempted to maintain the dogma, finding the law of nations unavailing, contend that Mr. Adams also meant to rely upon the law of military necessity.

What that law is they excuse themselves from defining, because they say it is indefinable, resting unavoidably in the mere discretion of our Generals, who alone are in a position to decide if they mean to do it.

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